

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ABIDJA 04737 141513Z

51

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 FDRE-00 SWF-02 EB-11 IGA-02

SCI-06 PC-10 USIA-15 IO-14 INR-10 DODE-00 AGR-20

INT-08 COME-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /195 W

----- 026526

P 141217Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8893

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 4737

AFDROUGHT

PARIS FOR HELMAN; ROME FOR FODAG; USEC BRUSSELS FOR MARTIN

PASS BROWN

E.O. 11652: NA

SUBJ: STATUS GRAIN PORT OF ABIDJAN

1. AS OF NOON JUNE 12 THERE WAS APPROXIMATELY 9,600 M/T U.S. GRAIN IN ABIDJAN PORT. MARINE VICTORY JUST STARTING TO DISCHARGE ITS CARGO OF 6,500 M/T USING TWO VAC-U-VATORS OPERATING AT BELOW MAXIMUM CAPACITY DUE TO ADJUSTMENT. THIRD VAC-U-VATOR AWAITING REPLACEMENT BELT WHICH EXPECTED TODAY. CURRENT RATE OF DISCHARGE 1,200 M/T PER 24 HOUR PERIOD WHICH WILL BE INCREASED TO 2,000 M/T WHEN THIRD MACHINE REPAIRED AND ALL MACHINES PROPERLY ADJUSTED. M/T DENEbola DUE IN SHORTLY WITH ADDITIONAL 2,000 M/T WHICH WILL BRING U.S. GRAIN TOTAL IN PORT TO APPROXIMATELY 18,000 M/T.

2. OVERALL ABIDJAN PORT OPEGOTION RUNNING SMOOTHLY. VAC-U-VATORS PUMP GRAIN FROM SHIPS HOLD TO DOCKSIDE WAREHOUSE 75 FEET

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 ABIDJA 04737 141513Z

AWAY. A FRONT END LOADER IS USED IN WAREHOUSE TO FEED FOUR HOPPERS

USED FOR SEMI AUTOMATIC BAGGING. BAGS ARE SEWED BY 5 ELECTRIC SEWING MACHINES, STACKED ON PALLETS AND MOVED BY FORKLIFTS TO OUTSIDE STORAGE UNDER TARPS. OUTSIDE STORAGE OF BAGGED GRAIN IS REQUIRED SINCE WAREHOUSE PRIMARILY USED FOR STORING AND BAGGING BULK GRAIN.

3. BAGGING OPERATION IS SMOOTH AND AROUND THE CLOCK. APPROXIMATELY 1,500 M/T BEING BAGGED AND STORED DAILY AS RESULT OF TWO 12 HOUR SHIFTS. ALL U.S. GRAIN APPEARS TO BE IN GOOD CONDITION WITH ONLY MINOR BAG DAMAGE AND ADEQUATELY PROTECTED FROM RAIN. FYI SOCOPAO HAS INFORMED US THAT THEY WILL HAVE AVAILABLE O/A OCTOBER 1, COVERED STORAGE SPACE FOR 20,000 M/T. COST WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY DOLLARS 85,000 PER YEAR WHICH WOULD INCLUDE LIGHTS AND SECURITY. THIS SPACE WOULD BE PARTICULARLY ADVANTAGEOUS SINCE IT IS NEAR BUT NOT IN THE PORT AREA WHICH IS ALREADY OVERLY CONGESTED. IT WOULD PERMIT EASIER ACCESS BY TRUCKS AND WOULD SEPARATE RECEIVING AND SHIPPING ACTIVITIES. RECOMMEND THIS PROPOSAL BE CONSIDERED SOONEST AS OPTION AVAILABLE THROUGH JULY 74.

4. ALTHOUGH OFF-LOADING BAGGING AND STORAGE IS RUNNING SMOOTHLY EVACUATION OF GRAIN FROM THE PORT IS NOT. THE SPORADIC AVAILABILITY OF BOTH RAIL CARS AND TRUCKS IS THE BOTTLE NECK.

5. ALTHOUGH RAN (RESEAU ABIDJAN-NIGER) HAS PROMISED TO MAKE AVAILABLE GRAIN TRAINS (500 TONS) FOR MALI AND UPPER VOLTA THEY HAVE NOT. THE PROBLEM IS NOT A QUESTION OF AVAILABILITY OF ROLLING STOCK BUT A QUESTION OF MANAGEMENT. THE DECISIONS OF THE TOP ECHELON DO NOT NECESSARILY EFFECT THE CADENCE OF WORK AT THE LOWER LEVELS. THE MAJOR PROBLEM LIES IN THE LENGTH OF TIME ROLLING STOCK IS TIED UP AT OUNGALADOUGOU AND OUAGADOUGOU WAITING TO BE OFF-LOADED. BOTH THE RAN AND THE FREIGHT FORWARDERS ARE AWARE OF THIS PROBLEM AND ARE STRIVING TO IMPROVE THE ROTATION TIME OF THESE TRAINS WHICH WOULD INCREASE THE PRESENT MONTHLY RAIL CARRYING CAPACITY FROM 6,000 OR EVEN 12,000 M/T.

6. A SIMILAR SITUATION EXISTS INsofar AS MOVEMENT OF GRAIN BY TRUCK IS CONCERNED AS POINTED OUT IN REFTEL. FORWARDING AGENTS INFORM US OF SOME TRUCKS WAITING AS LONG AS ONE WEEK TO BE OFF-LOADED IN BAMAKO AND TWELVE DAYS IN MOPTI. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN INFORMED THAT SOME OF THE MAJOR TRUCKING FIRMS WOULD BE WILLING

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 ABIDJA 04737 141513Z

TO INVEST IN ADDITIONAL VEHICLES IF SOME SORT OF AN ANNUAL PROGRAM FOR ALL DONORS COULD BE ESTABLISHED THAT WOULD ASSURE THEM THAT THEIR INVESTMENT WOULD NOT REMAIN IDLE. SUCH A PROGRAM ARRANGED THROUGH THE FORWARDING AGENT COUPLED WITH ACCELERATED OFF-LOADING AT DESTINATION WOULD RESULT IN A CONSIDERABLE INCREASE IN MOVEMENT BY ROAD. WE PLEASED TO NOTE THAT ONE LOCAL NEWSPAPER "FRATERNITE MATIN" HAS FOR PAST TWO DAYS CARRIED AN ANNOUNCE FROM THE GOIC TO ALL TRUCKERS (WITH 20 M/T PLUS TRUCKS) TO ASSIST IN HAULING GRAIN

TO THE SAHEL COUNTRIES.

7. THE DONORS (WFP, FED AND FAC) FREIGHT FORWARDERS AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RAN HOLD WEEKLY MEETINGS TO DISCUSS EVACUATION OF GRAIN. UP TO THIS POINT THE U.S. HAS NOT PARTICIPATED. NOW THAT DOERR IS BACK HE WILL REPRESENT THE U.S. AT THE NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD JUNE 18. ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE FOR A REDSO REPRESENTATIVE TO ATTEND ALL FUTURE MEETINGS.

8. AS OF JUNE 12 THERE IS A GRAND TOTAL OF 27,000 M/T OF RELIEF SUPPLIES FOR MALI AND UPPER VOLTA IN THE PORT OF ABIDJAN (16,000 M/T U.S. FOR MALI; 5,000 M/T FED FOR MALI AND 6,000 M/T FOR UPPER VOLTA). IN ADDITION TO THIS THERE IS 17,000 M/T OF COMMERCIAL RICE FOR MALI. AT THE PRESENT RATE OF EVACUATION IT WILL TAKE SEVERAL MONTHS TO ELIMINATE THIS BACKLOG. EVERYONE AGREES THAT THE RATE OF EVACUATION FROM ABIDJAN CAN BE INCREASED CONSIDERABLY. OUR EVALUATION IS THAT WITH PROPER MONITORING PERSUASION AND PRESSURE WE SHOULD BE ABLE ATTAIN A RATE OF 20,000-30,000 M/T (RAIL AND ROAD).

SMITH

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, MARINE TRANSPORTATION, CARGO HANDLING, STORAGE, GRAINS, AFDROUGHTS, PORT FACILITIES, PACKAGING, OPERATING COSTS, PURCHASE AUTHORIZ ATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ABIDJA04737
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740154-1125
From: ABIDJAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740646/aaaabnft.tel
Line Count: 135
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 AUG 2002 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <16 JAN 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATUS GRAIN PORT OF ABIDJAN
TAGS: EAID, IV, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005